

790 Eleventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019
October 13, 1982

Dear Mrs. Buberniak:

On November 6, 1981, just over a year ago, David J. Baum, then Editor of THE CARBONDALE NEWS, and I formed the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall. We did so because we, as well as many present and former residents of Carbondale, are interested in restoring one of north-eastern Pennsylvania's most important Romanesque Revival buildings--Carbondale City Hall.

On the very day that the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall was formed, it was my pleasure to meet, for the first time, your grandson, John. Here is how we met. John and I were both in the Carbondale Public Library, on the second floor. As I always do whenever I am in the Library, I stop and say hello to Mrs. Romaine Prince, the children's librarian at the Carbondale Public Library. In speaking with Mrs. Prince on that day, November 6, 1981, I explained that David Baum and I had just formed a committee to restore Carbondale City Hall and that I was in the Library in order to find out as much as I could about Carbondale City Hall from the Carbondale newspapers from the 1890s, when present-day Carbondale City Hall was erected. At that point, a young man stepped forward and volunteered to help do the research necessary in order that a history of Carbondale City Hall might be written. That young man was John. We immediately began our research in the Library's newspaper collections. Before the day was over, John and I were old friends.

Why did John and I immediately become friends, and why will we always remain friends? The reasons are many. John and I, first of all, are both interested in learning about the world, not only the world of the present but also the world that existed before either of us was born. Where else but in a library does one have access to all worlds, past and present, merely by opening a book? John and I are, at the same time, both interested in knowing about and participating in, as readers, the infinite number of fictional worlds that have been created by the conscious analytical human mind. Where else but in a library can one participate, merely by opening a book, in the countless fictional realms that have been brought into existence by the mind of man? John and I, in other words, are individuals who are not only perpetually asking questions but also forever looking for answers--which explains why we were both in the Carbondale Public Library on November 6, 1981.

John and I, secondly, are both very interested in the city of Carbondale--past, present and future. Both of us are proud of Carbondale and of our heritage. Both of us have not only respect for Carbondale and its past but also faith in ourselves and in the future of the city of Carbondale. Both of us, therefore, are interested in keeping Carbondale history alive, not only because it is intrinsically interesting, but also because the history of Carbondale (its buildings, its traditions, its culture) can be put to work, as a force for community betterment, in the service of the present and of the future. Both of us, therefore, are interested in preserving and restoring all those

Mrs. John P. Buberniak

- 2 -

November 13, 1982

buildings and historical sites in Carbondale and the surrounding area that are significant in local history and culture and which, collectively, constitute our irreplaceable architectural and cultural inheritance.

Thirdly, John and I are friends, and will always remain friends, because both of us come from the same kind of families--and this is where John's parents and grandparents and my parents and grandparents come into the picture. Without people such as yourself and John's parents, and my parents and grandparents, John and I could not be friends. This is true in that the values, beliefs and ideals of the Buberniak family are the values, beliefs and ideals of the Powell family. John and I are friends, and will always remain friends, in other words, because we have the same values, beliefs and ideals. Those same values, beliefs and ideals, it can be argued, are the values, beliefs and ideals of pioneer America. Because families such as the Buberniak family and the Powell family hold those pioneer values, beliefs and ideals to be sacred, this country is, at present, the preeminent nation of the world. Because families such as the Buberniak family and the Powell family hold those pioneer values, beliefs and ideals to be sacred, this country's future is bright.

One of the nice things about making a new friend, as you know, is that you sometimes become friends with the family and friends of your new friend. Such was my good fortune when John and I became friends. Through John, in other words, you and I, for example, are now friends. That makes me feel very good.

I will arrive in Carbondale on Thursday evening. Perhaps sometime over this weekend (November 19-21), you, John and I can go for that test ride that I promised you in my father's new Eagle.

Sincerely yours,

S. Robert Powell
S. Robert Powell

SRP Note:

John V. Buberniak was born July 25, 1965 at Bunker Hill Air Force Base in Peru, Indiana. He lived there until he was about 6 months old--when his father was discharged from the Air Force.